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CLAIMS

1. A method of calling a substation (US_m) by a central station (Z) in a transmission system for the purposes of information transmission by way of a communication channel (m) called from a plurality of communication channels, in particular for the remote reading of electricity meters, characterised in that the plurality of communication channels is subdivided into communication groups (GRI, GRII, GRIII) of the same property or the same parameter values and that within a selected communication group (GRII) a communication channel (m) is called, which is still communication-free, or, if all (n) communication channels of the communication group (GRII) are already busy, the central station (Z) goes into a waiting condition until at least one of the communication channels of the communication group (GRII) becomes communication-free.

2. A method according to claim 1 characterised in that associated with each communication group (GRI, GRII, GRIII) of the communication channels is its own specific code word.

3. A method according to claim 1 or claim 2 characterised in that when a communication channel is busy with a communication an item of busy information is stored in the central station (Z), from which the central station (Z) recognises that the communication channel in question is already busy.

4. A method according to claim 3 characterised in that storage of the item of busy information consists of setting a flag.

5. A method according to claim 3 characterised in that storage of the item of busy information comprises storing a code word which is stored in a memory of the central station (Z).

6. A method according to one of claims 3 to 5 characterised in that the item of busy information is stored in an operating system (BS) present in the central station (Z).

7. A method according to one of claims 3 to 5 characterised in that the item of busy information is stored in an application software (ASW) present in the central station (Z).

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